THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action to set up a Tariff Commission has been initiated.

(c) The terms of reference of the Commission are yet to be finalised.

Cancellation of filights from Rajahmundry and Vijayawada

3555. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for cancellation of flights from Rajahmundry and Vijayawada;

(b) whether the services will be restored; and

(c) by when the work for upgradation of Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports are to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Vayudoot operations to Rajahmundry and Vijaywada were discontinued due to commercial and operational constraints.

(b) Indian Airlines has at present no plans to restore operations to Rajahmundry and Vijayawada. Private operations to Rajahmundry and Vijayawada. Private operators, however, are encouraged tc add more stations in their network including Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

(c) Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Vijayawada Airport and the work is expected to be awarded during the last quarter of 1996-97.

Dumping of Newsprint

3556. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr the paper mills based on agricultural residues have expressed serious concern over the dumping of the newsprint in the country;

(b) whether the Indian Agro Paper Mills Association (IAMPA) has asked Government that actual user condition should be immediately reimposed on newsprint imports;

(c) whether they excressed that newsprint should be made available duty free only to newspaper publishers;

(d) if so, by when the demands of IAPMA are likely to be accepted; and

(e) whether Government propose to bring any changes in the newsprint policy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Secrecy of 'Monsoon Magic Offer' by Air India

3557. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is customary for airlines to keep their attractive offers secret and selective when they are deloped;

(b) the reson for Air India keeping its 'Monsoon Magic' offer secret till date June, 1996;

(c) whether because of such mess Air India is getting bad name and several of its loyal customers are drifting away from Air India;

(d) what steps will be taken to bring back such drifted customers; and

(e) what action will be taken on the officers who have been responsible for bring band name to Air India and for allowing loyal customers to go away?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The scheme was conceptualised in June, 1996 and launched in the same month.

(c) and (d) There has been positive response from the travel trade and passengers to the schemes resulting in higher loads and increased revenue.

(e) Does not arise.

Industrial Turn-Over and Income Tax Dues

3558. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of total industrial turnover year-wise for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total income-tax paid by industry for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) accumulated income-tax due to the industry till date with details of defaulters and amount due; and

(d) steps being taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARM): (a) No state-wise data in respect of the value of industrial turn-oever is maintained. The figures of overall growth rates of Industrial Production at the national level are, however available and shown below:—

1993-94	6%
1994-95	9.4%
1995-96	12%

(b) and (c) Statistics relating to industry-wise payment of income tax or its dues are not maintained. The time and effort involved in collecting the information will be enormous which may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(d) Various actions prescribed under the Income-tax Act, e.g. attachment of movable and inmmovable properties of defaulters, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties are taken for recovery of the outstanding demand. Besides, various steps are taken to effect recovery of demand including grant of instalments and where issues are locked up in appeal, appellate authorities are requested to dispose of the appeals expeditiously.

Excise duty dues on Cigarette and Tobacco Manufacturing Companies

3559. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cigarette and tobacco manufacturing companies have not paid a substantial amount of excise duty dues and have instead gone for an appeal against the dues;

(b) whther it is a fact that in case of some other companies, there is a conditionality that they have to deposit 50 per cent of the amount due before they are allowed to go for an appeal;

(c) if so, whether the aforesaid conditionality has been applied selectively;

(d) if so, the reaons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to realise the excise duty dues from the cigarette and tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) It is trued that a number of cigarette and tobacco manufacturing companies have not paid substantial amounts of excise duty due from them and have instead appealed against such dues.

However, there is a provision in the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 that